**NAMO BUDDAYA!**

Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Samma Sambuddhassa !..

Homage to the Blessed One, the Worthy One, the Supremely Enlightened One !

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**14. About Aruṇavatī**

So I have heard. At one time the Buddha was staying near Sāvatthī. There he addressed the mendicants: “Mendicants!” “Venerable sir,” they replied. The Buddha said this:

“Once upon a time, mendicants, there was a king named Aruṇavā. He had a capital named Aruṇavatī. Sikhī the Blessed One, the perfected one, the fully awakened Buddha lived supported by Aruṇavatī. Sikhī had a fine pair of chief disciples named Abhibhū and Sambhava. Then the Buddha Sikhī addressed the mendicant Abhibhū: ‘Come, brahmin, let’s go to one of the brahmā realms until it’s time for our meal.’ ‘Yes, sir,’ replied Abhibhū. Then, as easily as a strong person would extend or contract their arm, they vanished from Aruṇavatī and appeared in that Brahmā realm.

Then the Buddha Sikhī addressed the mendicant Abhibhū: ‘Brahmin, teach the Dhamma as you feel inspired for that Brahmā, his assembly, and the members of his retinue.’ ‘Yes, sir,’ replied Abhibhū. Then he educated, encouraged, fired up, and inspired them with a Dhamma talk. But the Brahmā, his assembly, and his retinue complained, grumbled, and objected: ‘It’s incredible, it’s amazing! How on earth can a disciple teach Dhamma in the presence of the Teacher?’

Then the Buddha Sikhī addressed the mendicant Abhibhū: ‘Brahmin, Brahmā, his assembly, and his retinue are complaining that a disciple teaches Dhamma in the presence of the Teacher. Well then, brahmin, stir them up even more!’ ‘Yes, sir,’ replied Abhibhū. Then he taught Dhamma with his body visible; with his body invisible; with the lower half visible and the upper half invisible; and with the upper half visible and the lower half invisible. And the Brahmā, his assembly, and his retinue, their minds full of wonder and amazement, thought: ‘It’s incredible, it’s amazing! The ascetic has such psychic power and might!’

Then Abhibhū said to the Buddha Sikhī: ‘Sir, I recall having said this in the middle of the Saṅgha: “Standing in the Brahmā realm, I can make my voice heard throughout the galaxy.”’ ‘Now is the time, brahmin! Now is the time, brahmin! Standing in the Brahmā realm, make your voice heard throughout the galaxy.’ ‘Yes, sir,’ replied Abhibhū. Standing in the Brahmā realm, he recited this verse:

‘Rouse yourselves! Try harder! - Devote yourselves to the teachings of the Buddha!   
Crush the army of Death, - like an elephant crushes a hut of reeds.

Whoever will live diligently - in this teaching and training,   
giving up transmigration through rebirths, - will make an end of suffering.’

Having inspired that Brahmā, his assembly, and his retinue with a sense of awe, as easily as a strong person would extend or contract their arm, Sikhī and Abhibhū vanished from that Brahmā realm and appeared in Aruṇavatī. Then the Buddha Sikhī addressed the mendicants: ‘Mendicants, did you hear the mendicant Abhibhū speaking a verse while standing in a Brahmā realm?’ ‘We did, sir.’ ‘But what exactly did you hear?’ ‘This is what we heard, sir:

“Rouse yourselves! Try harder! -…………………………………………………………………………… - will make an end of suffering.” That’s what we heard, sir.’ ‘Good, good, mendicants! It’s good that you heard the mendicant Abhibhū speaking this verse while standing in a Brahmā realm.’”

That is what the Buddha said. Satisfied, the mendicants were happy with what the Buddha said.

**80. Lesser**

Then Venerable Ānanda went up to the Buddha, bowed, sat down to one side, and said to him: “Sir, I have heard and learned this in the presence of the Buddha: ‘Ānanda, the Buddha Sikhi had a disciple called Abhibhū. Standing in the Brahmā realm, he could make his voice heard throughout the galaxy.’ I wonder how far a Blessed One, a perfected one, a fully awakened Buddha can make their voice heard?” “He was a disciple, Ānanda. Realized Ones are immeasurable.”

For a second time …

For a third time, Ānanda said to the Buddha: “… I wonder how far a Blessed One, a perfected one, a fully awakened Buddha can make their voice heard?” “Ānanda, have you heard of a thousandfold lesser world system, a galaxy?” “Now is the time, Blessed One! Now is the time, Holy One! Let the Buddha speak. The mendicants will listen and remember it.” “Well then, Ānanda, listen and pay close attention, I will speak.” “Yes, sir,” Ānanda replied. The Buddha said this:

“Ānanda, a galaxy extends a thousand times as far as the moon and sun revolve and the shining ones light up the quarters. In that galaxy there are a thousand moons, a thousand suns, a thousand Sinerus king of mountains, a thousand Indias, a thousand Western Continents, a thousand Northern Continents, a thousand Eastern Continents, four thousand oceans, four thousand Great Kings, a thousand realms of the Gods of the Four Great Kings, a thousand realms of the Gods of the Thirty-Three, of the Gods of Yama, of the Joyful Gods, of the Gods who Love to Create, of the Gods who Control the Creations of Others, and a thousand Brahmā realms. This is called a thousandfold lesser world system, a ‘galaxy’.

A world system that extends for a thousand galaxies is called a millionfold middling world system, a ‘galactic cluster’.

A world system that extends for a thousand galactic clusters is called a billionfold great world system, a ‘galactic supercluster’.

If he wished, Ānanda, a Realized One could make his voice heard throughout a galactic supercluster, or as far as he wants.”

“But how would the Buddha make his voice heard so far?” “First, Ānanda, a Realized One would fill the galactic supercluster with light. When sentient beings saw the light, the Realized One would project his call so that they’d hear the sound. That’s how a Realized One could make his voice heard throughout a galactic supercluster, or as far as he wants.”

When he said this, Venerable Ānanda said to Venerable Udāyī: “I’m so fortunate, so very fortunate, to have a teacher with such power and might!” When he said this, Venerable Udāyī said to Venerable Ānanda: “What is it to you, Reverend Ānanda, if your teacher has such power and might?” When he said this, the Buddha said to Venerable Udāyī: “Not so, Udāyī, not so! If Ānanda were to die while still not free of greed, he would rule as king of the gods for seven lifetimes, and as king of all India for seven lifetimes, because of the confidence of his heart. However, Ānanda will be extinguished in the present life.”

**Sadu! Sadu!! Sadu!!!**